

THE POULTRY MESSENGER

& WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. 3.

AURELIA, IOWA, MAY, 1897.

No. 3

Black Langshans.

My stock is unscored, but the eggs which I am offering for sale are from birds carefully selected and approved by an experienced Langshan breeder. Eggs \$1.00 per 13.

G. H. GRANDSTAFF, Aurelia, Iowa.

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For circular of choice Barred Plymouth Rocks and eggs. A fine lot of cockerels and pullets to sell and eggs from ten choice yards. Mention Messenger when you write.

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To have me on your list when in need of

Barred and White Plymouth Rocks.

Barred score 90 to 92½; White score 92½ to 95½. Two pens each. Eggs \$2.00 per 13.

L. E. ALEXANDER, Sutherland, Iowa.

Barred Plymouth Rocks Black Minorcas,

Light Brahmas, R. C. B. Leghorns, and Partridge Cochins. High class stock. Circular free. A year's subscription to The Messenger with every order.

SOME FINE BIRDS NOW FOR SALE

At a reasonable figure, I am prepared to prove to you that my stock is as good as can be bought anywhere for the same money.

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From birds bred on the utility plan. A combination of the Felch and Auto-crat strains. Noted for their size and standard markings; winners wherever shown. Correspondence solicited.

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My pen this season is headed by a 94 point male mated to females which are in every respect his equal.

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E. D. FRAUTSCHY, Monticello, Wis.

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Buff Wyandottes,

And Single Comb Brown Leghorns. First class stock at reasonable prices.

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I have Barred Plymouth Rock cockerels scoring from 86½ to 90 points which I will sell at reasonable figures. Can also spare some pullets with scores from 88 to 91 points.

You cannot buy high class stock for less money than I will ask for it. Eggs from Yard No. 1, \$1.50; Yard No. 2, \$1.00. A plan of J. F. Siem's

Natural Hen Incubator

With each setting of \$1.50 eggs, or with two \$1.00 settings.

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EXCLUSIVELY.

My patrons are in every part of the west, and my stock pleases them. It is equal to the best.

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One Dollar Per Sitting of 13.

Eggs from the same yards readily sold for \$2.50 the forepart of the season.

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Barred Ply. Rocks,
Black Langshans.

My Langshans score from 92½ to 94½ by Emery, Hewes and Clarke; Leghorns 90½ to 93½. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. Sixty per cent hatch guaranteed, or order re-filled free of charge.

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AURELIA, IOWA.

W. E. Dorland & Co.,

Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Breeders of thoroughbred Silver Laced Wyandottes, Light Brahmas, Single Comb Brown Leghorns, Single Comb White Leghorns, Pekin Ducks and Bronze Turkeys. Fifteen varieties of land and water fowls. Prize winners from the famous Mansfield Poultry Yards. Catalogue free on application.

BLACK MINORCAS.

Rose Comb Brown Leghorns.
Barred Plymouth Rocks.

No better stock found anywhere. Eggs \$1.00 per 13. Satisfaction guaranteed.
W. H. PROTEXTER, Sheldon, Iowa

WHITE WYANDOTTE

Eggs. Two dollars per fifteen from two pens headed by \$15.00 Forsyth cock and \$10.00 Mack, Vt., cockerel, with 94 to 95½ hens and pullets. Fertility and chicks guaranteed. Warren B. Davis, Sutherland, Iowa.

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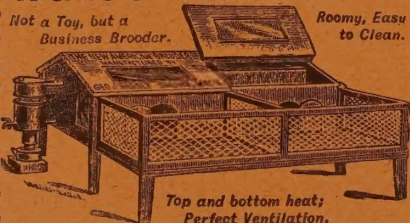
Are birds that you will not be afraid to put on exhibition when they become your own. Eggs \$1.50 per 13; \$3 for 20. Stock for sale.

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Perfect Ventilation.

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Nonpareil Poultry Yards, La Salle, Illinois. J. A. WEERTS, PROP.

Breeder of

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BROWN

LEGHORNS,

SINGLE AND ROSE
COMB BLACK

MINORCAS.

Stock for sale with score cards. Let me know what you are in need of. I am prepared to prove to you that my birds are the equal of anything on the market. I will have eggs for sale during the hatching season at a reasonable price.

O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Ind.

BREEDS AMERICA'S FAVORITE,

The Barred Plymouth Rock,

"Zebra," "Royal blue" and "Ringlet" strains, carefully selected and mated each season. Every bird is large and fine yellow legs and beak, typical in form, showing that circular barring that is so much admired.

My famous strain of Brown Leghorns are noted for nice five point combs, smooth white ear-lobes, beauty of form, good size and great egg production.

My Buff Leghorns are Arnold's strain, and are buff all over down to the skin. They are large, have good Leghorn symmetry, and are good in other points. Eggs from above varieties \$2 for 15; \$3.50 for 30.

My Red Pile Leghorns are direct from the originator's stock. No more beautiful combination of colors can be found on any fowl. Imagine a male bird with a rich crimson back, wings a combination of deep red, white and chestnut red, tail pure white; female pure white except breast which is chestnut red and neck a lemon yellow striped with white. Eggs \$3 for 13. Send for circular.

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Proprietor,
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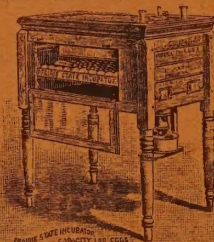
Stock is farm raised and healthy, and satisfaction is assured in every sale. Write for description and prices. Box 82.

White Plymouth Rocks. ||

ALFRED ANDRAE,
Aurelia, Iowa.

CHOICE STOCK

I breed White Plymouth Rocks exclusively, and have bred them for a good many years. The breeding pen from which I am offering eggs for sale this season is headed by a 93½ point cockerel, and he is mated to a choice lot of high scoring hens and pullets. You will not find any better stock than mine at the same price. Eggs \$1.50 per sitting of 13.



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PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO., Homer City, Pa.

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Grit for Little Chicks.

Sand, finely prepared granulated bone or something of this nature, should be among the first things that are placed before the newly hatched chicks. The importance of this is not generally understood. The little chicks are often placed on a board floor and kept closely confined there for a week or two weeks, their feed in the meantime consisting of doughy mixtures, no grit of any kind being placed within their reach. The people who do this believe they are giving the chicks excellent care, but the better plan is to allow them on the ground within three or four days after hatching, provided it is dry and bright, and they are sheltered from cold winds. They will then be able to pick up gritty matter of some kind and will be less liable to contract fatal bowel troubles.

People who have succeeded in successfully rearing a small number of chicks without giving them access to grit will make light of the suggestion to keep them supplied with material of this kind; but it is susceptible of proof that the preponderance of large breeders look upon it as a necessity. And reasonable people should be ready to admit that the experience of the individual who rears a few dozen chicks yearly is of little weight as compared to that of the breeder who rears them by the hundreds, or even thousands.

How Much Profit?

It don't cost a dollar a year to feed a hen here in the west. It don't cost more than the half of it. Experienced poultry keepers of the east in figuring their expenses calculate upon a dollar a year for each hen, and it is to be presumed that this is very nearly correct. They ought to know. But the western poultry raiser can safely divide this in the middle. This applies to a series of years and not only to the present moment when the ruling prices for grain

are almost without precedent. A dollar is also considered a reasonable profit on each hen. The man who makes this on an average should be satisfied. Experienced poultry breeders do not deem it prudent to promise those who follow in their footsteps anything better than this. The western breeder, notwithstanding his remoteness from market, has an equal chance of making his dollar profit with his brother of the east who finds a purchaser nearer to his door. The difference in the cost of feed fully compensates for the greater expense of transportation. But the beginner in market poultry culture, whether he lives in the east or the west, had better not figure on a larger profit than that above given.

The editor of Farm-Poultry, a great and influential poultry journal published at Boston, professes to derive a profit of something like three dollars from each hen yearly. The effect of the frequent publication of this yield has been to create a false impression upon the minds of many of the readers of that paper regarding the ordinary profits of this kind of a business. It is barely possible that this editor may make each of his hens pay him a profit of three dollars a year, but it is safe to say that not one successful poultry breeder in a thousand believes he is telling the truth when he says it.

Badly Shaped Eggs.

Never use eggs for setting which are of irregular shape. Eggs which are ridged, or hollowed, or show any irregularity of the shell, are usually weak at some point, and are liable to be broken and make trouble in the nest. Sometimes a very finely marked hen will lay eggs which are wholly useless for hatching purposes. This writer is at present the owner of a hen that scores above everything in her pen, but all of her eggs are weakened by a circular depression in the shell, and they

immediately collapse under the weight of the lightest hen.

Lime Dust

If air slacked lime is thrown up in the poultry house, and the door immediately closed, the dust will settle into every crevice, and if any lice are present they will show their disapproval of the proceeding by vacating the premises. For driving out the lice this is as effective as a coat of whitewash. It will be understood, of course, that the fowls must be excluded from the poultry house until the lime dust has settled.

Turkeys and Cabbage Worms.

The best remedy which can be given for the cabbage worm is a flock of turkeys. Many of the suggestions which are given for getting rid of the cabbage worm are a humbug, but there is no humbug about the turkey remedy. They seem to regard hunting cabbage worms as the chief end of a turkey's life, and no "gully worm" need hope to escape their keen eyes.

Early Morning Feeding.

The first duty of the morning should be the feeding of the young chicks. The older fowls can wait for their breakfast until this task is over. The chicks are ravenously hungry in the morning, and it is no advantage to them to be allowed to stand about their coops for an hour or more calling loudly for their morning meal. The person who is not given to early rising habits is scarcely qualified to have in his charge a lot of nurslings of this kind.

There will be no profit in the poultry next winter unless the work which needs to be done now is done right. If there is any season of the year when the penalty for neglect is more costly than another, it is in the spring when the chicks are subjected to all the dangers incident to babyhood.

Buy An Incubator.

The incubator is the next thing to a necessity to the breeder of fullblood poultry. A large army of breeders have become convinced of this fact the present season, and have entered a resolve to have an incubator on hand next year, let the cost be what it may. The most of them are bitterly regretting that they didn't buy this year as they had intended.

The hens cannot be depended upon to hatch out the early chicks. When you need them the most for this purpose they don't show the slightest inclination in that direction. They keep heaping up the egg baskets when eggs are spoiling on your hands for the want of a hatcher, and leave you to scour the neighborhood in search of broody hens while feeling that as a matter of simple justice you ought to have a house full of them at home. The hen wont go to setting in the early spring when your anxiety is greatest to have her do so, and she is coolly conscious of the fact that you have no power to make her do it.

Incubators are cheap as compared to what was formerly asked for them. Every breeder of fullblood poultry should have one. He cannot dispense with it without every year robbing himself of double the amount of money that it costs. The use of incubators is rapidly on the increase, and the breeder who persists in the belief that he can get along without one is pretty sure to get left in the race.

Give Them Liberty.

Keep the chicks out of the wet grass for the first two weeks of their lives. We would risk the wet grass after that if the chicks are strong and healthy. We would prefer to take the chances with the wet grass rather than with close confinement and the loss of the variety of food which is available only when they are given full liberty.

Paper Roofs.

Tarred building paper will make a safe water-tight roof for a nursery coop for one season, if rightly put in place. There must be a covering of boards beneath the paper, and these boards must be fitted close enough together to leave no wide cracks between them, otherwise the paper will be easily broken where there is nothing underneath to

give it support. The paper should be secured by narrow strips of board running the same direction as the slope of the roof. These strips should not be more than ten inches apart. Tarred paper put on in this manner will give perfect protection to the brood for one summer, and can be relied upon for two or three seasons if the coops are stored away in the dry when not in use.

Set the Hen at Dark.

The eggs should be given to the setting hen just at dark. While it is not always necessary to wait till this hour, it will be found that as a rule it is the safest plan to do so. A nervous hen can often be induced to settle down to her task by removing her from the nest in poultry house to the hatching room just at nightfall that would rebel at the change if the removal were made in daylight.

A hen should under no circumstances be allowed to hatch her brood in the in the poultry house. That is the most unsuitable place that could be chosen for the purpose. She should be entirely separated from the layers. We regard a hatching room as indispensable, a place where she can attend to her duties without disturbance of any kind. There is no other way in which a lot of hens can be handled at the cost of so little time and labor.

We occasionally meet with people who still hold to the notion that a hen must be permitted to hatch her brood in the place of her own selection. If that were the case we would discontinue the use of hens for this purpose entirely, as the inconvenience of looking after a batch of hens in each poultry house, together with the unsatisfactory results of such a system, would cost more than the rewards would be worth. People who have made a study of the hen nature have no trouble in getting them to set in the place which best suits the owner. Once in awhile they will get hold of a specimen that bids defiance to all their attempts to make her amenable to reason, but such cases are unusual, and cut no figure in the general count of the successes of the season. Give no credit to the assertion that a hen cannot be safely removed from the spot where she gives the first manifestations of her broodiness. A hen can be made to hatch her brood wherever it best suits the person in charge to have her

do it, provided this person knows how to humor her whims and coax her to obey his will.

Write Him a Letter.

There is no law compelling the buyer of fowls to write to the seller and tell him how he is pleased with the purchase. But it is the proper thing to do even though there is no compulsion in the matter. The seller naturally wants to please his customer, and if he has succeeded in so doing, he likes to have assurance of the fact. It is an act of courtesy for the buyer to write and express his satisfaction with what has been sent him, if satisfaction has been given. This is what is usually done. The cases where it is omitted are exceptional. But it ought not to be omitted in any case.

The seller of fullblood poultry makes many of his shipments with a feeling of uncertainty as to the manner in which the birds will be received. This would not be the case if he could select his patrons. The people who know what is required to constitute a good bird, and who can describe what they want in a manner that carries evidence of that fact, can be sent what they desire, if it is on hand, and the transaction is relieved of the probability of any future trouble in connection therewith. These people don't ask for faultless birds, and don't expect them. But all buyers are not of this class. The poultry keeping crowd is made up to some extent—we shall not venture to say how largely—of people who are still engaged in an unfinished apprenticeship to the business, and don't know it. Some of these people are mighty hard to please, because they don't know a good thing when they see it. When the experienced breeder finds a fish of this kind on his hook, and with a consciousness of the perils of the situation, makes his selections with the most careful regard for the interest of his patron, it is all guess-work as to what is in store for him after the delivery shall have been made. If he has given satisfaction he wants to know it. In the majority of cases he is made to know it if he has not.

The job printing office of Harlan J. German, Wymore, Nebraska, turns out first-class work. This house makes a specialty of printing for poultrymen.

Make Them Tame.

Some breeds of fowls are of a wilder nature than others. No one will contend that the Leghorn is naturally as tame as the Brahma, and yet in a practical sense a man's fowls are pretty nearly what he makes of them. A Brahma will flee from the presence of its owner just as readily as a Leghorn if it has learned that there is cause for so doing. The Leghorn can be made as gentle as a pet kitten, and will sit contentedly on the hand of its owner if it has been taught that it has no reason to be afraid of him. It is harder to reduce the Leghorn to this state of gentleness than the Brahma, but the fact that it can be done goes to show that the greater wildness of one breed than another is really not a matter of serious concern. It is something which is largely under the control of the owner.

If the little chicks that are now emerging from the shell are never frightened or abused, and are made to know that they have nothing to expect but kindness at the hands of the person who cares for them, they will never manifest wildness enough to occasion him any annoyance. We care not what the breed, the owner will be able to move about among them and do the necessary work about the yards and houses without any of the disturbances which make working about wild fowls such a disagreeable task. In order to do this it is not necessary that he should spend any large portion of his time in petting and fondling them. It is doubtful if anything is accomplished in this direction by taking them in hand at all. While by the exercise of a great deal of patience a small number can in this manner be made perfectly docile, the process is attended with excitement to the flock as a whole, and a man can find better use for his time than in making trained pets of a hundred or more chickens. But the wildest fowls can be tamed without putting attentions on the part of the keeper. The person who condemns and discards a breed for this fault lays himself open to the suspicion of being in need of some training himself.

Old Fashioned, But Good.

You can do a good job of lice killing with the old fashioned mixture of kerosene and lard. You can just as effectively get rid of the lice by this means

as with the modern insect powders and liquid lice killers. And you will not run any more risk of killing the chicks. Kerosene and lard is a slow and somewhat tedious method of fighting the lice, but it does the work as thoroughly as anything which can be used for that purpose. If your time is valuable use the insect powders and liquid lice killers, but if you have plenty of time and little money, you can safely take your chances with the kerosene and lard.

White Wonders.

A subscriber asks us if we have ever seen the White Wonders, and wants to know what they are like. Yes, we have seen them, and have had frequent opportunities of looking them over in the yard of a near neighbor. They are a good deal like the White Wyandottes, except that they are larger and have feathered legs. They are very quiet and docile, and there can be no doubt of the fact that they are excellent layers. This subscriber is laboring under a mistake in supposing that the White Wonders belong to the Asiatic family. They are an American breed, and were originated, we believe, in Maine. It is claimed by their admirers that they are the hardiest of all the white breeds, and on account of their heavy feathering, best adapted to a northern climate.

A Point in Favor of High Perches.

F. M. Langley, of Coulson, Iowa, an experienced and successful Leghorn breeder, has succeeded in preserving the combs of his fowls in the coldest weather by fixing the perches well up towards the roof of the building. He makes the roof as close and tight as can be done with paper and good boards or shingles, and if any part of the structure is slighted he prefers that it shall be the walls. He is favorable to buildings with low walls, four feet high being the limit. He can show a fine flock of Single Comb Brown Leghorns that were confined in a building with perches as above described the past winter, and their combs are uninjured. The north wall of this building is boarded up according to the usual fashion, but was without lining or banking. We have before heard of the advantages of this arrangement of the perches for the large combed breeds, but Mr. Langley is the only breeder with whom we are personally acquainted who has put it to the test.

The Eggs Were Flooded.

A subscriber writes that the eggs under one of his setting hens got flooded with water, and that they must have been submerged the greater part of a night. He supposed that the eggs were completely spoiled, but as the hen didn't seem to share this opinion, and was very anxious to resume her unfinished task, he concluded to let her have her way about it. He rearranged the nest and allowed her to again take possession, but had little faith of any good coming of it. His surprise was great when the hatch turned out to be an unusually large one. This is an old poultry breeder, and the lesson which he draws from the incident is that one never gets too old to learn.

A Bad Example.

If there is a hen in the breeding pen that finds out that it is possible for her to make her escape therefrom by flying over the fence, she must very speedily be taken in hand or else she will soon teach the greater part of the flock to follow her example. If the hen cannot be spared from the pen there is nothing to be done but to clip her wing or improve the fencing. If the fence is of the ordinary height, five or six feet, a couple of fine wires tightly stretched on the inside of the posts even with the top of the netting, will in nearly all instances prove effective. But whatever is done must be done without delay. Hens are quick to pick up bad habits when a teacher is constantly present to lead them astray. And a worse habit than the one in question could hardly be contracted by a flock of purebred poultry when it is greatly to the owner's interest to keep it pure.

Whatever else you do towards purifying the air of the poultry house during the summer, don't fail to use lime freely. You cannot use it too frequently on the walls and underside of the roof. But don't cover the floor thickly with lime as it will produce soreness of the feet if the fowls are made to continually wade in it.

If an egg is broken in the nest, smearing the others with the contents, they must all be washed clean without delay. Eggs which are coated in this manner will not hatch. Place them in a basin of warm water, clean as quickly as possible, wipe and replace them under the hen at once.

Don't Need to Rest.

EDITOR MESSENGER:—

About this time of year it is a common thing to see something like the following in the poultry papers: "When eggs have been received from a distance let them rest for twenty-four hours." It has always seemed to me that this advice bordered very closely on the absurd. Rest! Are they tired? If an egg is shaken out of shape 'rest' will not put it in shape again. I say say put the eggs under the hen, or in the incubator, at once. They will rest all right there, if fresh and sound; if not, nothing will restore them to a hatchable condition. All of us, perhaps, hold tenaciously to certain beliefs without being able to give a substantial reason for the faith that is in us. We boldly assert things as a fact which we have never fully investigated, simply echoing ideas which have come to us we don't know how, and believe them merely because they have been so often repeated in our ears by others who have looked into the subject to which they relate no more closely than ourselves. The editors of the poultry papers are subject to this weakness or fault or sin, or whatever you may call it, the same as other people. I esteem the editor of The Poultry Messenger, and find pleasure in reading his well written and usually well considered articles, but I do not believe that he can prove that there is anything gained by allowing eggs this so-called necessary rest of twenty-four hours.

When eggs are properly packed they will stand considerable kicking about. Years ago, before baskets were in use, I shipped in boxes with a cushioned bottom and a strap handle. I once shipped two settings to St. Paul, Minnesota, and went on the same train as far as Indianapolis. I watched the transfer from one car to another. The careful and intelligent express messenger tumbled a heavy box right on top of the egg box, producing a sound like that which would follow splitting the lid in two. I remonstrated and the dyspeptic looking agent politely told me to "Get out of here; no business in here." Calculating that those eggs were ruined, I wrote to the buyer and requested him to report as soon as hatched. He reported eighteen chicks from the twenty-six eggs. Another

buyer in Idaho hauled the eggs to his home from the station a distance of sixty-five miles on a farm wagon and got a satisfactory hatch. These and other experiences have convinced me that eggs can stand a far greater amount of shaking up than is commonly supposed without suffering any injury. Such jars as they are likely to meet with by ordinary modes of transportation will have no effect upon them, so far as their hatching qualities are concerned, and make it wholly unnecessary to give them a rest after they have reached their destination. I no longer advise my patrons to give the eggs I ship them a rest after arrival, but tell them to give them to the hen at once if one is in readiness.

JOHN BENNETT.

Sunman, Indiana.

The Twenty Dollar Kind.

When a man who has all his life been selling chickens at 25 cents apiece hears of someone selling a cockerel for \$20 he is always in danger of falling a victim to the chicken fever. It gives him a kind of shiver to think what he has lost by selling so many chickens at 25 cents when he could have just as well been selling them for \$20. This man knows that it would have been necessary for him to raise chickens somewhat different from those that he has heretofore kept, but then he is apt to think that all chickens are very much alike, and that there cannot be very much difference between the 25 cent kind and the \$20 kind. He may be ready to admit, perhaps, that there is something to be learned in order to know how to do it, but the task cannot be one of great difficulty, and he can get onto the secret if others have. This sort of person should understand that the people who are now selling \$20 cockerels sold a great many for one and two dollars before they ever had a chance to sell one for \$20. He should know, too, that these same people have a number of birds on hand every year that they would like to exchange for a silver dollar, but they would rather not have anything said about it.

It is not an easy matter to breed fowls which will sell for \$20. The most skillful breeders can rear but very few birds of this description, and the man who has been selling chickens, from ten to thirty years of his life at 25 cents stands a very slim show of ever hatching out a

specimen which will bring him the half of \$20. People who stand ready to pay that much money for a cockerel do not usually buy of that class of breeders. This is not saying, however, that it is impossible for such a breeder to produce a bird which is worth the money. But it is not a common thing to find birds of this character in such company. Those who possess them do not ordinarily come by them as the result of a lucky accident.

Nobody should make a start in the poultry business in expectation of realizing these high prices except for a very small percent of his birds. And anyone who has passed middle life before directing his attention to purebred poultry had better not calculate upon getting them at all. A few pens of purebred fowls would be equal to a gold mine if birds that would sell at such figures were easily produced even by the most skillful breeders.

Poultry Supplies Of every description
The best grade for
the least money. Illustrated catalogue free.

I. F. SCHOTT,

New Pittsburg, Wayne Co., Ohio.

EGGS ARE WANTED
by all poultry-keepers. How to get them is told in our pamphlets, which we send free to all interested in poultry

FITCH FERTILIZER WORKS,
Bay City, Michigan.

Light Brahmas, Felch Strain.

Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Chicks hatched with hens in February, March, April and May; they are of mammoth size and have extra fine plumage. I will sell my surplus stock at prices that are right. No culls for sale at any price.

N. V. E. BALLARD, - Onawa, Iowa.

WELCH'S
Single-Comb Brown LEGHORNS

Are fine as the finest. Stock for show and breeding purposes for sale at reasonable prices. Eggs \$1.50 per 15; \$2.75 per 30. Orders booked now for spring delivery. Address

Wolverine Poultry Yard,

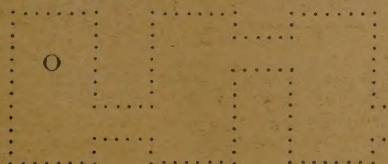
Jas. C. Welch, Prop.

Lansing, Mich.

Egg-Eating Hens.

EDITOR MESSENGER:—

In the March issue of The Messenger you have an article under the caption "No Cure for Egg-Eating Hens," which does not at all agree with my experience. I claim I can and have absolutely cured a pen of fowls of this vice, and that they staid cured. Two years ago this winter I had a pen of Black Langshans that were laying heavily when all at once they apparently ceased laying altogether. Being quite busy at the time I had not the leisure to keep a watch upon them for several days. They were well fed, had plenty of meat and cut green bone, and although confined closely during the then prevailing bad weather, I did not suspect them of this vice until I took the time to stay right with them an hour or so one morning, and it was then that I found out what the trouble was. I had my nests in soap boxes, half of the top knocked off, turned up on one side and placed on the ground in the corners of the pen. As soon as the first lady deposited her egg she came off the nest and called her mates, cock and all, to the feast. Another hen that was on the nest promptly responded to the summons and hastened to the spot for the purpose of getting a share of the spoils. This performance was frequently repeated. As this was a little better feed than I could afford to give my hens I at once addressed myself to the task of putting a stop to it. I tried filling an egg shell with red pepper, but they just seemed to want red pepper in their business. I then tried a few drops of carbolic acid in mustard, and that they also devoured thinking, apparently, that any old thing in an egg shell was good to eat. Then I removed every nest from the pen and all litter from the floor so they could not conveniently lay anywhere except where I wanted them to. I took three boxes of same size placed them side by side in one corner of the pen according to the following diagram:



The hen enters at the right hand box passes diagonally across and into the next box and so on to her nest which is

arranged for her in the third or last box with nest egg. I did not place the boxes perfectly close together but left a little apart so that there might be light between and biddy easily find her way through. It worked like a charm. There was no trouble about getting the hens to go into the nest, and it was amusing to watch their antics after the first hen laid her egg. Of course she came entirely out of the boxes before cackling, and then when the crowd hurried to the banquet there was no egg in sight, and they just stood around and looked "kinder foolish like." I had them fowl. I left two of these nests in their pen for a month and then removed them, having effected a permanent cure. Since then I have frequently found eggs on the ground and roost platform, and cracked eggs in the nest, and though some of the same hens are still in the pen, they have never eaten an egg from that day to this. One year ago this last winter a pen of Black Minorcas, through close confinement, got into the same habit and I cured them in the same way. This is no guess work with me but an actual experience, in view of which I cannot help thinking that your conclusions are all wrong.

Now a word more about nests. I have tried about every kind of nest I have ever seen described, and have finally hit upon a plan that for convenience beats them all. To begin with: My poultry house has an alley extending along the back wall. The partition between it and the pens is of lath. Now I just take a common 30-dozen egg case knock out about one-half the bottom and hang it against this partition, perpendicularly, the top of the case (from which of course the cover is removed) against the lath, and I have two nests. A strip two or three inches wide should be nailed across the bottom of each entrance to keep the nest material in place. These boxes are suspended by wire hooks so that the bottom of each is about eighteen inches from the ground. A notch is cut in the lath to admit the hand when gathering the eggs. This is more convenient than a slide door or other methods commonly made use of. The advantages of the plan are that the boxes are light and easily removed to be cleaned, etc., convenience in gathering the eggs and last, but not least, they are up from the ground sufficiently high to prevent the hens from seeing the eggs after leaving

the nest, thus doing away with danger of the vice of egg eating above considered. Some very prominent poultrymen advocate having the nests under the roost platforms, but why anyone should compel himself to lie down on the ground in order to gather the eggs, or even to enter the pen for that purpose, is—well its simply tomfoolery to do anything of the kind. I should have said that if too light a place for nests arranged in this fashion, you can tack a curtain at the top, letting it hang loosely say half way down, which will darken the apartment without offering any obstruction to the entrance. A common cracker box with a partition in the center will answer the same purpose as an egg case.

A. CHRISTIE.

Smithland, Iowa.



G. W. TOYNE

Glidden, Iowa.

Breeder and

Mater of

SILVER-LACED

WYANDOTTES,

Only.

Eggs \$1 for 15.

Birds for Sale.

Barred Plymouth Rocks

From high scoring stock. Cockerels \$1 to \$3; pullets \$1 to \$2. They will produce winners and layers.

MARTIN RICKARD, - Grinnell, Iowa.

Rutherford Broth's,

AURELIA, IOWA.

Eggs

FROM

R. C. B. Leghorns,
Buff Leghorns,
White Wonders,
Golden Wyandottes,
Pekin Ducks,
Toulouse Geese.

Brown Leghorns, per setting of 13,	\$1.00
White Wonders " "	2.00
Golden Wyandottes, " "	1.50
Buff Leghorns, " "	1.50
Pekin Ducks, 3 settings for	2.00
Toulouse Geese, per setting of 7,	2.00

Two years ago we bought a first prize pen of Pekin Ducks, and our present flock is made up of this purchase and their progeny.

Chicago and Detroit, 1897.

BUFF LEGHORN WINNERS.

I want every person interested in this popular and beautiful breed to send for our large 8-page '97 circular, free, stamp accepted. I have one of the finest flocks in America. Prize winners for six years. Get my circular sure.

GEO. S. BARNES,

Battle Creek, Michigan.

CHOICE

Barred Ply. Rocks.

If you want eggs from good birds scoring from 90 to 92 points, write Mrs. Silas Cobbs, Marathon, Iowa. Box 303.

The English Bull Terrier.

The proprietor of The Fashion Kennels, Hawarden, Iowa, sends us the following brief sketch in relation to the character of the White English Bull Terrier:

"The Bull Terrier is an intelligent, good-tempered, quick-motioned dog, and as a rat destroyer it has no superior. I have one of the breed that has killed 37 rats inside of an hour. This was no rat pit, but the rats destroyed were dug out by herself from beneath an old slaughter house. No help of any kind was given her. These dogs appear to understand that it is their business to kill rats, and those destructive pests, with all their cunning, are utterly unable to escape their vigilance.

The Bull Terrier does not readily make up with strangers, and for this reason they should be obtained when young. After they have passed their second year they are not much disposed to recognize a new master. They are kind and affectionate towards the owner and his family, and are particularly fond of children. The sullen disposition, which according to a prevalent belief is characteristic of the entire bull dog family, is not perceptible in the Bull Terrier, except to strangers which any intelligent watch dog would look upon with an eye of suspicion. Tramps, poultry thieves, and the like, will find them very undesirable acquaintances.

No owner of a poultry ranch would be without one of these dogs if he fully understood its value. It will clear the premises of rats, keep off stray cats, and be a menace to any two-legged intruder that has no legitimate business on the grounds. And it will do all this without disturbance to the family in the way of noisy barkings. This dog never barks except to sound a warning of something wrong."

Worth Its Weight In Gold.

When I know of something that will put money in the pockets of every person who keeps fowls, I want to let it be known, and I know that very thing. It may not suit some of your advertisers to have this published, but will be a blessing to everyone of your readers who try it, and readers are more numerous than advertisers. "Make a saturated solution of Naphthaline in Kerosene and you will have the best lice killer." That's the whole thing in a

nutshell, but to go into details a trifle, you can get a pound of Naphthaline at any city drug store for 15 cents, or probably half that price if you buy of a wholesale druggist in quantity. It comes in the form of small white crystals, and is not, I believe, considered a dangerous poison. However, it will be well for the operator not to take too large a dose of it, at least not until his system becomes accustomed to it. It will require a little over one gallon of oil to dissolve one pound of the crystals and will take, perhaps a day's time to make the solution complete. It should be shaken at frequent intervals to hasten the solution. It should be used practically the same as other liquid lice killers, with this exception: In cold weather it does not evaporate readily when applied to the dropping boards or bottoms of the boxes. To remedy this I took some old stove pipe, flattened them out and set them on my heating stove in the house until they were thoroughly warm—not hot—and then placed them on the roost platforms after the fowls had gone to roost, of course painting them before so placing them. I have used two of the liquid lice killers most extensively advertised and I have found this solution to be equal if not superior to either of them, and it will not cost one-fourth as much. Of course this heating a tin or iron surface to place under the roosts is not necessary in warm weather. I consider this one of the greatest discoveries of the age so far as the henman is concerned, but do not know to whom the discovery be-

longs. I read it during the past year in one of the dozen or so poultry or farm papers that come to me but do not remember where. Not having occasion to use any of it until quite recently I never gave it a trial, but during the last few weeks I have tested it thoroughly and find it to be the "whole thing" so far as the lice question is concerned. The fact that I have only seen it published once and have never seen it referred to since leads me to believe that it is not generally known, hence I give your readers the benefit of my experience. It's great. It's a gold mine to every poultryman, and if any of your readers are advised of the discoverer of it I should like it if they would so inform me.—A. CHRISTIE, in Iowa State Poultry Journal.

Only \$2 per setting for White Plymouth Rock eggs from a pen containing birds scoring 95½ points. That's the kind of a flock that is owned by L. E. Alexander, Sutherland, Iowa. The two dollars that are exchanged for a setting of those eggs will be mighty well invested.

4 LBS. Best Granulated SUGAR \$1.00

We are selling 41 lbs. of the best Granulated Sugar for \$1.00, and everything in the grocery line at "rock bottom" prices. We are the Only Supply House that Sell to Consumers at Strictly Wholesale Prices, which is clearly proven when we sell 41 lbs. best granulated sugar \$1.00. We ship these goods anywhere to anybody and guarantee satisfaction. Send No Money, but cut this out and send for full particulars enclosing two cents in stamps to **CONSOLIDATED WHOLESALE SUPPLY CO.,** 215 to 219 So. Clinton St., Chicago, Ill.





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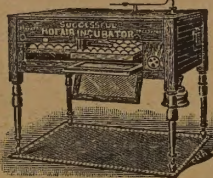
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with the machine that is sold under a guaranty to produce the greatest possible percentage of live ones from a given number of fertile eggs. 12 years of success to the credit of

THE RELIABLE INCUBATOR AND BROODER

used with entire success in every State in the Union and many foreign countries. All about their good qualities and much more of interest to poultrymen in our Book on Incubation and Poultry. Send ten cents for it....

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WHERE OTHERS FAIL

the **SUCCESSFUL INCUBATORS** succeed. This is largely due to their new system of ventilation, new method of generating moisture and the positive action of the self regulator. These machines will please you, as will also the prices. All sold under a positive guaranty, which please to compare with others. Send 6 cents in stamps for catalogue and book on *Poultry Culture*. **DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO., Box 40, Des Moines, Iowa.**

Even Mating.

EDITOR MESSENGER:—

I heartily indorse your views in regard to evenness of birds composing a breeding pen. The importance of this is very often lost sight of. Of course I want high scoring birds, but they must be as even as possible if this feature is to become conspicuous in the flock. In scoring my birds I never give them the advantage of a doubt. I cut more closely, if any thing, than I would do for others, as I cannot afford to take the chances of putting a bird upon the market with a single point granted it above its merits. After the scoring has been completed I compare my cards and make my selection of breeders with a view to balancing up the off points. The same as yourself, I prefer a pen running a point or two lower, as a whole, and even, to one containing some very high scoring birds and some low scoring ones. I should rather have an even mated, well balanced pen scoring 90 points than one ranging from 88 to 95 points.

I would have it understood that I value a breeding male just as highly as an exhibition male, and I would score him just as closely, writing on the score card "For breeding purposes only." I also hold that it is wrong to fatten a breeder, either male or female, in order to obtain standard weight. The fertility, utility and longevity is lessened as the result of an overfat condition. Neither will the progeny be as vigorous and healthy as that from fowls not so fat. Superfluous fat is not conducive to health in any animal.

I am not in favor of crossing strains. I had rather hold to the same strain and introduce new blood in the same line, a little removed in relationship from the stock which it is intended to improve thereby. I believe it a good plan to get eggs in lots of fifty or a hundred from the source from which your new blood is to come and raise your own young stock, foot-marking each clutch as soon as hatched, so that no mistake can be made in the arrangement of the pens in the fall. In this manner you give yourself good opportunities of selection, and besides, having reared the birds yourself, you know that the feeding and care have been such as to produce sound healthy growth and hardiness of constitution.

Fowls, like all other animals, trans-

mit the elements of disease to their progeny. I have paid out money for stock which died on my hands, and on making an examination I have found conclusive evidences of tuberculosis. That this weakness is transmitted from one generation to another there can be no doubt. I do not want any of that, or any other constitutional weakness in my flock, and will not have it if I know it. I think this matter of health is of importance enough to demand greater attention at the hands of the standard makers, and shall take the liberty of making the following suggestions to these gentlemen.

1. Standard makers should specify standards for breeding males, wherever a variety requires it, and they should be entitled to the hundred points as well as the exhibition males.

2. Standard makers should fix more specifically the scoring process and make it plainer to the understanding of the amateur; they should tell him when to cut, how much and why.

3. Standard makers should allow fully 10 points for physical disability. Here the score master should be required to ask 1. Did either or both of the parents of this bird die of fatty degeneration of the heart? Allot 2 points. 2. Has this bird or either of its parents had roup, diphtheria or canker? Allot 3 points. 3. Did either of the parents of this bird die of tuberculosis, going light or consumption? Allot 5 points.

DR. L. DEVORE.

Ponca, Nebraska.

Leghorn Eggs at Reduced Price.

The Fashion Kennels, at Hawarden, Iowa, will sell Rose Comb Brown Leghorn eggs for the balance of the season at one dollar per setting of fifteen. These eggs are from fine stock. The proprietor of The Fashion Kennels will send correspondents a show record which will leave no doubt upon the mind of any one as to that fact. Send for his circular.

Pure Water.

The importance of clean water vessels and a regular supply of water cannot be overdrawn. Disease lurks in filthy, stagnant water, and many people who deplore their bad luck with their chicks could safely charge the greater part of it to their lack of attention to the water supply. The water vessel should be drenched with scalding

water once a day, and should be emptied and refilled at least twice a day. Yes, it is a good deal of bother, but people who undertake to rear a lot of little chicks must expect to be kept pretty busy at little jobs of this kind. If they think they can neglect anything let it be the feed, but they will get proof of the fact some time that it pays to look mighty closely after the water.

Deafness Cannot be Cured

by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free F. J. CHENEY, & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Cornish Indian Games; Exclu'y.

Eggs for sale. \$2.50 per 13.

WM. A. BARTMAN, Litchfield, Illinois.

SINGLE COMB
WHITE Leghorn

White P. Rock and W. Wyandotte

Eggs. Fifteen for one dollar. Sixty for three dollars.

W. J. SHIELDS,

Harmon's Creek, Pa.

Eggs For Sale.

Barred and W. P. Rocks, Black Langshans, Light Brahmans, Single Comb Brown, Single Comb White, and Buff Leghorns, Buff Cochins, W. H. Turkeys, and Belgium Hares.

WM. MICHAEL. - Plain City, Ohio

Eggs for Sale

**Black Minorcas and
Cornish Indians**
Exclusively.

If you want first-class stock please write. A postal card will do.

C. C. OSTERHOLD,
919 Chestnut St. Quincy, Illinois.

Query Department.

In this department questions pertaining to chickens and small fruits will be answered by O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Indiana.

What is the proper size to make nests for sitters? What size shipping coops for single birds, trio and breeding pen?—Settie.

For Brahmas and Cochins fourteen inches square by sixteen inches high is about right for nests; smaller breeds twelve inches square will do. A shipping coop for a single bird of the large breeds, fourteen inches square and twenty six inches high, a pair, sixteen by twenty inches, a trio, twenty four inches square; breeding pen thirty inches twenty six or twenty eight inches high. For Wyandottes and smaller breeds slightly smaller coops can be used. It depends on how far fowls are to be shipped in making coops. If they are to have a long journey they should have plenty of room so they can move around, be comfortable and not break their plumage. Your own judgment should be your guide in making coops. When you have made a coop for a single bird, a pair, trio or breeding pen, and find that they are cramped for room, you know that the coop is too small; if you discover that the birds have more room than is necessary you know that the coop is too large. Don't make shipping coops any larger than is necessary, as your customers will pay extra for all superfluous room. Make them just as light as safety will admit; make them firm and strong but of light material. The coops should be made entirely of wood to insure single rates. Canvas coops go at double rate and are not used by wide-a-woke breeders.

Will hens lay well with all the skim milk that they can drink, with no other feed except what they can pick up on a range?—Gertrude.

This question is a "stunner." In the summer if your fowls had a large range with access to the stock yard, barn, wheat field, etc., they would lay with the addition of the milk, or without it. Milk is good for hens, but would be worthless as an egg producer unless they had access to other kinds of food.

STRAWBERRY CULTURE CONTINUED.

The object with the weeder is to prevent the weeds from getting a start. If this is allowed the weeder will not plow them out, and you will be compelled to use the hoe or strawberry

plow. You should go over the patch with the weeder at least once a week, and twice a week is not too often if it rains soon after using it. The marker I mentioned in a former article is easily made. Take a board twelve feet and two inches long, ten inches wide and one inch thick. Make seven sled runners two and a half feet long, four inches wide and one inch thick and beveled at one edge. Nail them under the board the distance the plants are to be set—two feet for matted rows. For marking the other way use only four of the runners; knock off the second, fourth and sixth. Nail on shafts to guide and draw it by, also handles to keep it straight. If you are careful in drawing the marker it will make the rows straight, and two men can mark out an acre in one hour. To make the first through with marker stretch a line and after that let one runner follow in the last mark made. The material for the marker should be as light as you can get, the smaller the mark so long as it can be seen plainly, the better. I have tried a number of different markers but the one I have described is the best and most speedy I have used.

Sunflowers for Shade.

A cluster of sunflower stalks will afford the yarded hens a grateful shelter during the hot months of summer. If it is necessary for a person to keep his flock in an inclosure at that time he should make some provision in the spring for shade. Plum trees, as a rule, are preferable to anything else, and where the yards are permanent there should be no delay in getting something of this kind started. In the

meantime something of a more temporary nature must be looked to. We know of nothing better than the sunflower. It grows rapidly, and its broad leaves are admirably suited for giving the hens protection from the fierce rays of the sun. Plant in clusters, surround the stalks with stakes until they are a foot high, and you will be surprised to see what a short time it takes for them to grow large enough to cover the sunny side of the yard with a shade which will be the constant resort of the hens during the heat of the day.

Two for the Price of One.

We will send The Messenger and either of the following journals to any address for 50 cents. The regular subscription price of all the papers in the list is 50 cents. You get The Messenger for nothing,

The Reliable Poultry Journal.
The Poultry Tribune. (Freeport, Ill.)
The Poultry Herald.
The Western Poultry Journal.
The Feathered Realm.
The Michigan Poultry Breeder.
American Poultry Journal.
Inter-State Poultryman.
The Poultry-Keeper.

Golden Wyandottes Golden Seabright Bantams.

A 92 point cock by Shellabarger heads our pen of Wyandottes. Entered two pairs at Anoka, Minn.,—Felch, judge—and won 2nd cockerel 90, 2nd pullet 92½, 3rd pullet 89½. Entered four Seabrights and won 1st hen 94½, 3rd hen 92½, 1st pullet 92½, 2nd pullet 91½. At St Paul, Minn.,—Sharp Butterfield, judge—won on 12 entries 1st cock 92, 1st cockerel 93½, 1st hen 94, 2nd hen 93, 3rd hen 93, 1st pullet 94, first pen 187, second pen 183.

Stock for sale. Eggs \$2 for one, or \$3.50 for two settings. A year's subscription to the Poultry Messenger with every order.

J. J. BEAN. Abbotsford, Wisconsin.

Rose-Comb Brown Leghorns.

combs, and superior laying qualities. Exhibition and breeding birds \$1.50 to \$2.00. Eggs \$1.25 per 13. A year's subscription to the Poultry Messenger with every order. Don't pay any more than 1 ask for birds or eggs.

The English BULL TERRIER

Is neat, clean, quick and game. The dog for the poultryman. Puppies for sale at all times at reasonable prices. Send for our circular. Correspondence a pleasure. Address T. L. ACKLEY, or

THE FASHION KENNELS, Hawarden, Iowa.

A FINE LOT OF Exhibition and Breeding Birds

My Leghorns are Winners

Of many first prizes, and have won at Rock Island, Illinois, Cedar Rapids, and Sioux City, Iowa, and Nebraska State Fair. They are noted for their size, white earlobes, beautiful

Breeders' Gards.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS, exclusively. Conger, Hawkins, Lawton's best strains. Write me before you buy. J. D. Stevenson, Killbuck, Ohio.

MRS. JASPER COON, Correctionville, Iowa, breeder of L. Brahmas, B. Langshans, Buff and White Cochins, W. P. Rocks and C. I. Games. Eggs in season.

OH, SAY! Do you want any Barred Plymouth Rocks or S. C. B. Leghorns from high scoring birds? Hawkins strain of Barred Plymouth Rocks. W. P. Marsden, Columbus City, Iowa.

WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS, only. Full blood, large size. Eggs \$1. a setting. W. D. Swain, Panora, Iowa.

W. E. DONAT, Maynard, Iowa, breeder of fullblood White Plymouth Rocks. Eggs \$1 per fifteen.

VILLA PARK POULTRY YARDS, Black Minorcas and Buff Leghorns. Eggs reduced to \$1 per 13. Stock for sale at all times. Satisfaction guaranteed. Walter Harned, Trenton, New Jersey.

SCOTCH COLLIE puppies, bred from trained parents. High class poultry. E. E. Hoffer, Cresco, Indiana. Box 10.

EGGS FOR HATCHING from Houdans, Barred Plymouth Rocks, S. C. B. Leghorns, Game Bantams and Pekin Ducks. No more stock for sale until fall. Stamp for reply. E. and M. Hissong, Washington, Iowa.

FANCY RABBITS, Guinea Pigs and Pigeons, all varieties. Barred Ply. Rocks and Golden Seabright Bantams. Eggs 75 cents per 15. W. C. Hugunin, Spencer, Iowa.

W. C. B. POLISH, W. Frizzles for sale. Good stock. Eggs in season \$1 per setting. Segwum Poultry Farm, Lowell, Michigan.

\$25 IN PREMIUMS offered to those sending orders. Send 2 stamps for premium list and circular to Robert Hartwig, Hackney, Mo.

WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS, Empire strain, 9 good breeding cockerels at \$1.25 each, 2 for \$2. Gearhart Knitting Machine cost \$8.00, brand new, full set at \$4.75. Also new violin cost \$5.00, price \$2.00, or will exchange for typewriter or Buff Rocks. Fred Havig, St. Ansgar, Iowa.

"LONE OAK," one dollar buys eggs from Lt. Brahmas, S. S. Hamburgs, W. and Barred P. Rocks, Buff Cochins, Pekin Ducks. Premium stock. A. C. Diller, Marshalltown, Iowa.

FOR SALE, choice lot of Barred P. Rock cockerels. Seventy-five cents each. Geo. S. Jones, Aurelia, Iowa.

EGGS FROM HIGH-SCORING Barred Plymouth Rocks \$1.50 and \$2 per setting of 15. C. B. Wagner, Hiteman, Monroe co., Iowa.

S. C. B. LEGHORNS, exclusively. Eggs 15 for 50 cents. C. M. Saltzer, Nursery, Illinois.

CORNISH INDIAN GAME, Black Langshan and White Wyandotte eggs for sale from birds scoring from 90 to 94 points. Prices reasonable. H. E. Gerke, Quincy, Illinois.

PARTDIGE COCHINS exclusively. Pen is headed by LaCrosse's first prize cock, 93½ by Emery, E. E. Ross strain. Mated to high class females. Eggs \$2 per 13. J. O. Mills, Ashland, Wisconsin.

BANTAM'S AND PIGEON'S eggs per 13. African, Buff Pekin \$3; imported Black Red \$4. Pigeons, Swallows, Barbs, Pouters, Etc. A. H. Hughes, Springfield, Illinois.

English Red Caps, Silver Wyandottes, Eggs \$1.00 per setting. Satisfaction guaranteed. R. J. Holman, Proprietor Crystal River Poultry Yards, Paffreyville, Wisconsin.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS, Cockerels \$1 each; pullets 75 cents; eggs 4 cents each. A. M. Chamberlain, Aurelia, Iowa.

P. E. TWINING, Kipton, Ohio, (Lorain County), breeder of high class poultry of leading varieties. Send for catalogue.

JOHN D. ROWLEY, Jorden, N. Y., breeder of the best Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes. Stock for sale. Eggs \$1 for 13.

F. E. COLEMAN, Manchester Green, Conn., breeder of Barred Plymouth Rocks exclusively. Eggs for hatching \$1.25 per 13; \$2 per 26. Poultry Journal one year free with every order. Please mention The Messenger.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS exclusively. Eggs 15 for 75 cents. Mrs. M. Garing, Montezuma, Iowa.

WILLIS WHINERY, Salem, Ohio, breeder of 20 varieties of fullblood poultry. Eggs \$1 per 13; \$2 per 30. Write for what you want.

BLACK MINORCAS. Winners at two banner shows, Cleveland and Pittsburg, winning eight premiums and two specials on eight entries at Pittsburg show. Fine breeding cockerels at reasonable prices. Eggs in season. Write for circular. Robert Mairret, Akron, Ohio.

IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC LANGSHANS, Black and White. E. A. R. Sure Roup Cure. A. H. Ascher, Princeton, Illinois.

LIGHT BRAHMAS, Black Javas, Rose Comb Brown Leghorns from high scoring birds. Eggs \$1.25 per 15. Geo. Hammett, Sumner, Iowa.

SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGs, exclusively. Be sure and send for my illustrated circular—its free. W. F. Metz, Ionia, Michigan.

PANSY POULTRY FARM, Pansy, Pennsylvania. Thirteen varieties of land and water fowls. Send stamp for circular.

GREAT BIG LIGHT BRAHMAS, eggs and stock for sale in season at hard times prices. Our stock will suit you. L. M. Rowe, Galva, Ia.

W. E. BEARD, De Witt, Iowa, breeder and mater of Silver Wyandottes—12th year. Stock and eggs for sale in season.

JAMES M. SMITH, Perkiomenville, Pa., Box 7, breeds all leading varieties of poultry. Eggs \$2 per 13. Fine catalogue free.

BAARED ROCKS exclusively. Cockerel from F. A. Gibson, West Alexander, Pa., score 92 points; pullets score 90 to 93½. Eggs from this pen \$1.50 per 15. A pen of choice unscored nicely barred heavy boned hens mated with cockerel scoring 90 points. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. A. L. Manwell, Vinton, Iowa, box 783.

Valuable Formula for 10 Cents.

Hooper's Lice Formula kills insect life with lightning dispatch, Rough on Lice, Mites, Bedbugs, Roaches, Fleas, Ants, etc; exterminates with magical effect; cheap, harmless, easily applied, directions for making 10 cents, (stamps) circulars free. F. L. Hooper, box 8, Station D, Baltimore, Maryland.

Barred Plymouth Rocks

Stock and Eggs. Write wants. W. A. Shipton, Uhrichville, Ohio.

Barred Plymouth Rocks.

Eggs for Hatching from four grand matings of high scoring birds. Eggs one to two dollars per thirteen.

Buff Cochin Bantams.

Scoring 93, 92, 93, 93½, 94, 94½ 95, by I. K. Felch. Highest scoring Buffs at Cedar Falls, Iowa, 1897. Eggs \$2 per 13

W. H. MILLER, Independence, Iowa

Try to have the setting hen come off the nest of her own accord. Avoid lifting her off, if possible. If this is done you will most likely be obliged to perform this service for her every time the feeding hour arrives. She seems to be fond of being waited upon. When a new set of hens are introduced into our hatching room and the entrance to the nests is thrown open for the first time, we try to have them all leave the eggs and come forth to the feeding floor. If some persist in remaining on the nests they are shut in with the rest of the crowd when the feeding is done with and made to stay there until the feeding hour of the following day. By that time they will usually be hungry enough to answer the call to dinner on the first invitation. But out of a dozen hens there will usually be one or more that nothing will persuade to leave the nest at the time desired. These hens must be taken off by force unless the entrance to the nest is to be left open, and they are permitted to come and go at will. As this is a risky thing to do where a number of hens are setting in the same room, the safest course is to remove them from the nests at the regular feeding time. But when you have done this once you can calculate upon having it to do every day until those hens are through with their contract. There will be a considerable saving of bother in teaching as many of them as possible that they are expected to wait on themselves when feed and water is set before them. This is one of the little things which may seem to some hardly worth the space which it takes to tell it, and yet it may be made to count for a good deal to the busy poultryman during the hatching season.

Mrs. H. E. Sanborn, of Fairbank, Iowa, is offering the plan of J. F. Siem's Natural Hen Incubator with each \$1.50 setting of Barred Plymouth Rock eggs, or with two settings of \$1.00 eggs. Any one at all handy with tools can make this incubator at a cost of less than two dollars. Mrs. Sanborn's Barred Plymouth Rocks are very fine, and the eggs which she is selling are well worth all she is asking for them. This valuable premium is clear gain to those who buy of her.

I. F. Schott, New Pittsburg, Ohio, will sell you what you need in the way of poultry supplies at satisfactory figures. Give him a chance to quote you prices on what you want.

THE POULTRY MESSENGER, AND Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the 15th of every month by
The Messenger Company,
AURELIA, IOWA.

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year

The principal qualification of a poultry judge is good judgment. But the poultry judge should be very promptly "called down" who exercises his judgment on points where the Standard allows him no right of personal judgment

A. C. Hawkins also claims that he has 96 point Barred Plymouth Rocks in his yards, but nobody is daring him to prove it. How does it happen that the thing which it is so easy for Mr. Hawkins to do is impossible with Mr. Lash?

Because a chicken has been "farm raised" does not necessarily imply that it was raised by a farmer. It is well to keep the point in mind too that lots of chickens which are farm raised haven't anything to crow about on that account

The fellow who lays so much stress upon the "practical qualities," and believes these qualities are only to be found in the scrubs, should visit the yards of some breeder of thoroughbred fowls about this time of year, and take a glance at the swarming broods of young stock. He will be forced to admit that the thoroughbreds have been giving their attention to some very practical work for a few months past. A hundred chances to one that his beloved scrubs will decline the offer to compare records.

The "ideal" brood coop is like the ideal poultry house or the ideal anything else necessary to the business of the poultry keeper. It is the coop which will protect the brood from the cold and storms, and is made in any pattern, design or style, and of any material which best suits the taste and pocket book of the owner. The cheapest coop, so long as it properly answers the end for which it is designed, comes about as near to the ideal coop as you can get to it.

The man who has the best birds in existence can generally find something just as good or even better if he looks

around a little. As a usual thing the man who honestly believes that he has the very best, knows very little about what others have. He has greater need to go away from home and stay awhile than he knows of.

The experienced poultrymen who have made a reputation for honesty and fair dealing shouldn't even talk about going out of the business because of the complaints which come to them about the eggs not hatching. If there is no other reason for their abandoning it, let them remain in the business whether the eggs hatch or not. The fellow who can't get the eggs to hatch that are sent out by men of this kind is the one who should go out of the business. The poultry industry would miss him less than it would the breeders he is so ready to accuse of cheating him.

The standard makers are getting the help they asked for in the coming revision of the Standard. If they don't please everybody in the work before them it will not be because everybody has not shown a willingness to offer them assistance.

The hen that sets in the hay loft where there is no moisture, and the hen that sets on the ground where she can get all the moisture that she can use in her business, are both doing about as well as usual this season in smashing the theories of contending sages. The hen follows instinct, and is patient in the hope of finally convincing reason that she cannot go very far astray so long as she obeys its mandates.

The majority of the people who look upon poultry keeping as a small business would find themselves too small for the poultry business if they should undertake to try their hand at it.

All express offices are provided with a pair of scales, but it is plain that many of the agents don't know what they are there for. The new express rates would give general satisfaction if the regulations provided a cure for the wretched habit of guessing at weights instead of testing them by the scales.

The poultry judges don't all score alike because they don't all see alike, and because they are human beings and are subject to the shortcomings common to all humanity. Well, there are

judges of another kind who don't always exactly agree, but it would hardly be considered the correct thing to condemn them as a worthless lot of rubbish on that account.

People should get settled in their life work before their hair begins to turn gray. If poultry keeping is going to be the business of your life get started while in full possession of your strength and energies, and you will find that there is something for you still to learn to the last day of your life. Not one man in a hundred who delays taking his first lessons in this business until after he has passed middle life ever attains even moderate success.

When the editor of a poultry paper has been prevailed upon to tell which is the best incubator, there will be a prospect of getting him to go a step farther and tell which is the best breed of chickens. His opinion would be worth about as much in the one case as the other, and wouldn't be of much value in either. In sober truth, the editors don't know, and it ought to be plain to the people who are disposed to get cross at them for what is considered pure obstinacy, why they don't know.

WYANDOTTE Poultry Yards

Silver, White and Golden. White Guineas, Holland Turkeys and Pekin Ducks. Scored stock.

G. W. WARNER, Sheffield, Iowa.

Eggs From BUFF ROCKS-

S. C. W. Leghorns and Black Langshans. Fifty-one prizes won this season. Circular free. Prices right.

H. B. BOYER, - Morrison, Illinois.

PLUM GROVE

Poultry Yards

TEA, SOUTH DAKOTA.

Rose Comb Black Leghorns, Rose Comb Brown Leghorns.

Eggs for sale from the very best matings. Also, a very fine

Mammouth Bronze Tom

Weighing 40 pounds. Score card furnished with this bird. No turkey eggs for sale this season.

WM. SOULE, Prop.

Fruit Growing

ELMER BRINTNALL, Editor,
Winthrop, Iowa.

All communications for this department should be sent to the above address.

Profits in Small Fruits.

When people hear of an income of from \$200 to \$500 from an acre of small fruits, they are apt to conclude that somebody has not much respect for the truth, or else that that somebody is in a fair way to become a millionaire on the investment of a very small capital. But it is a fact that many people do regularly obtain an income of the above proportions from an acre of small fruit, and yet their prospect of becoming a "bloated capitalist" is anything but flattering. The outlook in that direction would be very encouraging if they could thus utilize a hundred or two hundred acres of land, but when they extend their operations beyond the limits of their own capacities, or that of their families, the expenses make fearful inroads upon the profits. Fruit growing on a large scale is only fairly profitable, more profitable, when rightly conducted, than general farming, but it would be contrary to reason to suppose that such large returns as have been mentioned could be maintained when it is carried on in an extensive way. If this were so everybody would want to quit every other kind of farming and go in to fruit growing. But it is a fact that an acre of ground planted to small fruit can be made to yield the owner several hundred of dollars a year if he understands fruit culture and properly attends to his business. But a man who has had no experience in this line had better practice a few seasons before he undertakes even as large a contract as an acre.

Native Plums the Best.

Some of the lately introduced Japanese plums are very promising, and many growers are of the opinion that we have found something valuable in these importations from that far-off land. But the fact must not be lost sight of that these foreign varieties are yet largely an experiment, and it is not good judgment for one to allow himself to be supplied with them to the exclu-

sion of the native sorts. If these Japanese plums fully come up to all that is expected of them they will not rank above the best of those native to this country. It will only give us a larger variety of fruit of that kind, and make it easier for growers to meet the diversity of tastes. The native plums of this country are not excelled anywhere on the earth. This is a fact which is beyond controversy, and those who buy simply with a view to family use cannot do better than to stick to the natives.

Distance Between Orchard Trees.

The proper distance between the trees of the orchard will always be a disputed question, and, as a matter of fact, it is hard to lay down a definite rule which will meet the varying conditions of different seasons. Trees which are the right distance apart in dry years will be too close in wet years, and as there will always be wet and dry years, it is best to be conservative in the matter and keep clear of the extremes. It seems to us that the advocate of close planting is inclined to be dogmatic in defense of his theory. We had one tell us a short time ago that he had "no sort of patience" with the people who advised planting apple trees more than fifteen feet apart. We would prefer not to have our trees so close as that, and yet we are ready to admit that this would be none too close during a series of very dry seasons. But since it would necessitate considerable work to pull up the trees and reset them when the wet seasons had their turn, besides being attended with some risk, we would rather try to strike the "happy medium," and thus be as well prepared for the changeable conditions as the circumstances of the case will admit of.

The Dust Storm.

One of the difficulties that is experienced by the strawberry grower of the western prairies, and which those who reside in a broken and wooded country know nothing about, is the "dust storm" which occasionally takes place at a very dry time—usually in the fall—and covers the patch with great ridges of fine powdery soil. The writer has had fine strawberry beds completely ruined in this way, and if these storms were of yearly occurrence strawberry growing on a small scale in the region

above named would be discouraging work except where special facilities existed for protecting the plants from the flying dust. These storms almost invariably come from the west, and if the bed is located under the shelter of a grove on that side it may be saved from injury in this manner. A storm of this character capable of doing serious damage is not of frequent occurrence, but they come often enough to make it worth one's while to do some planing in order to be prepared for them. This has reference only to the small grower. Those who have large fields of plants have little to fear from this source, as the dust is not so liable to be deposited on a large open space, and the loss of a row or two in the neighborhood of the borders is a matter of little consequence.

Do You Want a Paying Business

That is safe and will be permanent? If you have a pair of horses and from \$50 to \$500 capital, the F. C. Austin Mfg. Co., of Chicago, will be pleased to correspond with you as to the use of certain special road-grading and earth-moving machinery; also well-drilling machinery. To save correspondence, write plainly stating your situation fully and naming parties to whom you can refer.

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White French Artichokes,

At \$1.00 per bushel; 3 bushels \$2.75; 6 bushels \$5.00, sacks free. Also German Millet Seed, 75 cents per bushel
W. H. MILLER, Independence, Iowa.

Plants	Strawberry Plants.	Seeds
	\$1.50 to \$3 per thousand. Ten thousand Warfield for \$12.50, Most varieties Garden Seeds at 5 cents per oz., 25c to 40c per lb. Price list free.	
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First-class and prices reasonable at the

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Millions of Strawberry PLANTS

At the lowest prices. Finest plants we have ever grown. 25,000 Kansas Raspberry—the finest raspberry grown. All other kinds of small fruit plants. Write for catalogue.

F. W. DIXON, Holton, Kansas.

The Iowa legislature has passed a resolution making the wild rose the official flower of the state. If they will pass another making a certain long eared animal emblematical of themselves, they will not come far from expressing the sentiment of their constituents.

Last fall as an experiment we planted sixty fruit trees, consisting of apple, crab, plum and cherry, and at this writing every one is putting on its spring suit of green—not a dead tree in the lot. We also planted one acre of Snyder blackberries, one-fourth acre of Worden grapes and a few currants. It is too soon to say how the blackberries will come out, but the grapes and currants are looking fine, and we are well pleased with this our first attempt at fall planting.

Coal Ashes for Cherry Trees.

Try a mulch of coal ashes about a few of the cherry trees if some of them seem to lack thrift and you know of nothing better to do for them. Such a mulch will often prove highly beneficial. Many successful fruit growers recommend it for other kinds of fruit trees, but the writer has not put it to the test except with cherries. We have seen cherry trees which didn't make a growth of six inches in three years take on a surprising change for the better within a year after being treated to a mulch of coal ashes.

A North Slope for the Orchard.

A north slope should be selected for the orchard. Circumstances may be such that it is well nigh impossible to find such a slope at all convenient for the purpose to the spot on which should be located the home premises, but let it be understood that a north slope is always the best. And it is also well to bear in mind that the trees should be located as near possible to the top of the slope if the character of the ground there is at all suitable to tree growth. The worst location for the orchard is on the rich mellow land of the creek bottom. No variety of orchard trees will do as well there as on a high rolling surface. The situation of the dwelling determines to a large extent the location of the orchard, but the fact is easily perceptible that utility is too often sacrificed to convenience. The distance saved does not begin to compensate for the loss of fruitfulness as the result of an unsuitable location.

Thayer's Berry Bulletin for May.

The roots of currants and gooseberries of bearing age must not be disturbed by cultivation or hoeing until after fruiting season. Apply a mulch of coarse manure or straw, thick enough to prevent the growth of weeds, in and about the hills and rows.

Look for the currant borer at this time. When the leaves start, affected canes commence to wither and die. Cut out the affected canes below the black center and burn at once.

All newly set plants should be thoroughly cultivated, weeds must not be allowed to grow for they consume valuable plant food and moisture so necessary to the young plant.

Frequent surface cultivation makes the natural foods of the plants more available, prevents escape of moisture, and holds water in store for summer use.

The root is the foundation of the plant, it should be stimulated to early and continuous growth by the best care in the beginning.

If plants have failed to grow, set new ones in their places at once, one cannot afford to have missing hills.

Blackberry and raspberry bushes should be trimmed severely, cut back at least one-third or one-half, severe pruning increases the size and quantity of the fruit.

Picking, packing and marketing are important factors in growing fruit for profit.

The grower should understand that choice berries are always in demand and the market is never overstocked.

That it costs just as much to raise poor berries as good ones.

That it costs more to pick and pack poor berries; that freight and express charges are just as high on poor berries; hence there is profit only in growing the best for market.

Berry boxes and cases should be made before the season begins. Clean, well made packages neatly stenciled on the side with name and residence soon become your "trade mark," let it also be

a guarantee of good berries honestly packed.

Never allow stems, leaves, dirt, imperfect or unripe berries in the box. Always have a uniform quality throughout and the boxes well filled.

For long shipments pick every day, and before the fruit is too ripe. Never offer poor berries for sale and never use a dirty box or a poor case.

If it becomes necessary to sell poor berries send to a good commission house but never place your name on the case.

Let markets be as near as possible and to regular customers. If you would have good markets and good prices always deal honestly with your customers.

M. A. THAYER,

Sparta, Wis.

Evergreens can safely be planted this month.



come from the best trees. The best trees are grown in the far North. The very best trees come from our great Minnesota Nurseries—absolutely the best and hardiest that money will buy.

We sell millions of trees and plants every year. This season we want to sell more than

ever. Nobody at any price can sell you as good trees as we can at a low price. The thing to remember is that our trees and plants grow. And they bear fruit.

All we ask is your name and address, so we can send you a great deal of valuable information free. Tell us where you live, and we will tell you about our trees.

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WORTH A THOUSAND DOLLARS TO ANY FARM

An Evergreen Grove of 100 selected trees, 2 to 5 feet high, only \$10, delivered at your railroad station. All this stock is re-transplanted and well branched. Packed in wet moss and boxed so as to reach any point in United States safely. Your choice from millions of trees—largest Evergreen nursery in the country. Carry also a general line of all varieties of Fruit Trees, Small Fruit Plants, Forest Trees, Ornamentals, Roses, Shrubs, etc. Write at once for free catalogue and price list. LIBERAL terms for getting up clubs, or to reliable salesmen with or without experience. Send \$1 for sample order of 20 best Evergreens 1 ft. high or 100 6 to 8 in., by mail prepaid. Reference—any Bank or Commercial Agency.

D. HILL, Evergreen Specialist, DUNDEE, ILL.

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lying along and owned by the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Company, and which that company offers at low prices and on long terms. Special inducements and facilities offered to go and examine these lands both in Southern Illinois and in the Yazoo Valley, Miss. For further description, map and any information, address or call upon E. P. SKENE, Land Commissioner, No. 1 Park Row, Chicago, Ill., or B. MOE, Ass't Land Commissioner

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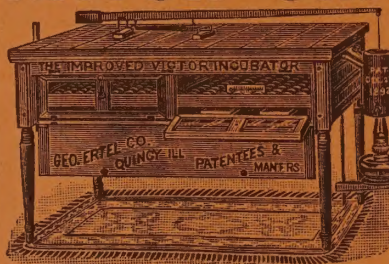
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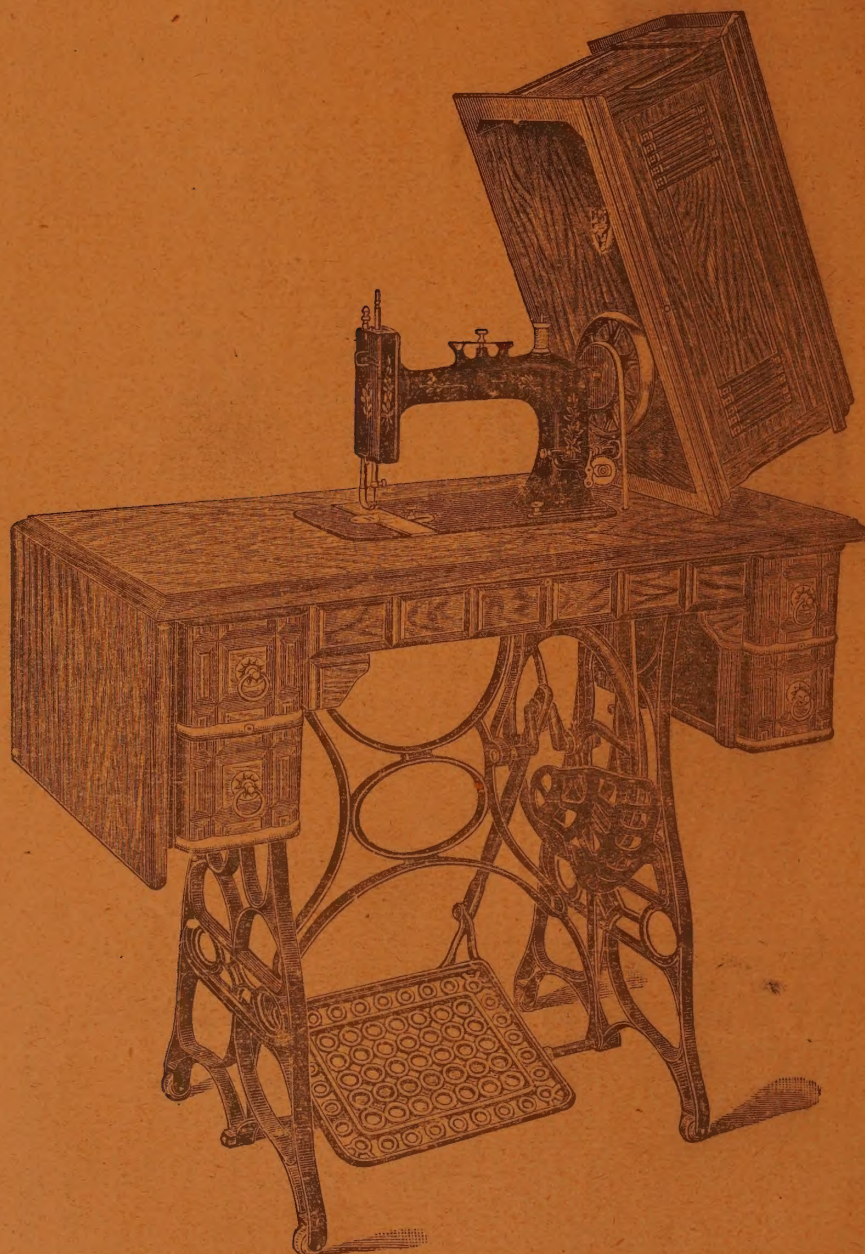


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THIS CUT—

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\$17.50.

Don't let the low price lead you into the error of thinking that this is a cheaply made machine. It is not. The cut tells you exactly how it looks. It is a handsome machine, finished in the Latest Style Oak. It has five drawers, a gothic top and extension drop leaf. It is easy running, fast and almost noiseless. As for wear,

We Warrant It for Ten Years.

It has all the most recent improvements and the price includes a complete set of steel attachments. It is manufactured under the immediate supervision and by the best mechanical talent in the world. It is the simplest machine, having the fewest parts, all strong and with case-hardened bearings. Being free from all complications, it is easily cared for, never gets out of order, and is always ready for use. The most inexperienced can readily manage it. It has all the modern appliances and conveniences that go to make up the sum of excellencies.

We claim for this machine that it is the

Best in the World.

This is a strong claim, and yet we believe we have sufficient warrant for making it. We have sold so many of these machines, and no word of complaint having ever come to us from a purchaser, we feel justified in saying that it has no superior. Money cannot buy a machine which will do a greater variety of work, or do it better. There is not a machine made which will last longer, keep as constantly in repair, or give better satisfaction to the user. The manufacturers have combined only that which is practical, and dispensed with the complicated surroundings found in many of the high priced machines.

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To Any Railroad Point in the United States East of the Rocky Mountains.

This machine uses a self-threading cylinder shuttle, and makes the double thread 'lock stitch. It is adapted to every variety of sewing from the lightest muslin to the heaviest cloths. People who are disposed to doubt that a really first-class machine can be sold at this low figure run no risk in giving this one a trial. We have such unbounded confidence in its ability to make friends wherever it goes, that we offer, if it does not prove in all respects exactly as we represent it, to take it back at our expense, and to refund you all your money. We will do this in every case, and are prepared to convince you that we can be trusted to stick to our agreement. It costs you nothing but a postal card to get our circulars. They have been the means of saving many people \$20 on the cost of a sewing machine. Send for them.

THE MESSENGER CO., Aurelia, Iowa.